

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-05 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00

ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 SAM-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 L-03 DRC-01 /113 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2824

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23220

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PLO UNESCO

REFS: (A) PARIS 23189, (B) PARIS 23188, (C) USUN 3535

1. PERMREP HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AMB.

LEBANON UNESCO AUB-IZZEDDIN RE PROPOSED DR 11 REV.

AMB. ABU-IZZEDDIN WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD IN STATING THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE ARABS TO ACCEPT ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION. HE INDICATED MINOR CHANGES WHICH MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE POINT THAT THE PLO WAS THE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

RECOGNIZED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE COULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED BUT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING REFERENCE TO THE PLO AS AN ORGANIZATION. HE STATED THE ARABS HAVE FIRMLY DECIDED TO BACK THE PLO AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

2. AMB. ABU-IZZEDDIN THEN GAVE HIS VIEWS ON THE EFFECT OF A NEGATIVE VOTE BY THE US ON THE DR. HE STATED HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT NO OTHER STATE WOULD VOTE AGAINST
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ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE A FEW ABSTENTIONS. THE AMBASSADOR

SAID THAT A "NO" VOTE BY THE US WOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD. HE SAID THE ARAB COUNTRIES WATCH UNESCO ACTIVITIES CLOSELY AS THEY ARE RECIPIENTS OF UNESCO PROGRAMS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH PRESS WOULD PLAY UP A NEGATIVE US VOTE. AMB. ABU-IZZEDDIN STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW A "NO" VOTE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING NOW AS NEW INITIATIVES BY THE US IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE EXPECTED SOON AND THE UNESCO VOTE MAY PREJUDICE THE SUCCESS OF SUCH EFFORTS. A "NO" VOTE, HE STATED, WOULD GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO THOSE ARAB SEGMENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEIZE ON ANY OPPORTUNITY TO DISRUPT US PEACE INITIATIVES. IN THE OPINION OF THE AMB, ALTHOUGH AN ABSTENTION WOULD NOT BE WHAT THE ARABS WOULD LIKE IT WOULD CLEARLY LESSEN THE STING OF AN ISOLATED "NO."

3. PERMREP INDICATED WE HAD NO FIRM INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT DR AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A VOTE MIGHT BE PUT OFF TO THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 3 RATHER THAN THE MORNING. THE AMB. OFFERED TO CALL HIS COUNTRYMAN DR. SARRUF, PRESIDENT OF THE EX.BD. AND REQUEST THE ITEM BE PUT IN THE AFTERNOON, BUT THIS OF COURSE IS NOT GUARANTEED, AND IT MAY WELL COME UP IN THE MORNING. THE CONVERSATION, WHICH HAD LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR, WAS CONCLUDED ON A CORDIAL NOTE.

4. COMMENT: AMB. ABU-IZZEDDIN HAS BEEN A CORDIAL ACQUAINTANCE OF PERMREP AND HE SEEMED TO BE SPEAKING WITH FRANKNESS IN AN EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL. CLEAR THAT AN ABSTENTION WOULD BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE MODERATE US STAND. MAY WISH CONSIDER ABSTENTION WITHOUT EXPLANATION OF VOTE OR OTHER ENTRY INTO DEBATE AS LOW KEY APPROACH. IF INTERVENTION MADE MAY BE WELL TO PEG IT ON CONCERN OF US FOR RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RATHER THAN MAKING DIRECT REFERENCE TO PLO.

5. FYI DEPARTMENT: CHECK WITH UNESCO LEGAL ADVISER (LUSSIER) ELICITED LATTER'S OPINION THAT NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS CONTAINED IN TEXTS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (REFTEL B), WOULD REQUIRE SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE BY GENERAL CONFERENCE RATHER THAN TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REPORTED IN PARA 7, REFTEL (A). PARA 8 (A) OF DR WOULD BE TREATED AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE REQUIRING ONLY MAJORITY VOTE AND SUPERCEDE OTHER PROVISION REQUIRING TWO THIRDS VOTE FOR OBSERVERS.
IRWIN

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